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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/046,409	01/16/2002	Victoria M. Bellotti	D/A1490Q1	2099

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EXAMINER
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PWU, JEFFREY C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/046,409	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BELLOTTI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jeffrey Pwu	<b>Art Unit</b> 2143	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/16/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reed et al. (US 5,862,325)

Reed et al. disclose claims:

1. A method for managing and tracking information items within a message-based system, the message-based system having a viewer, the viewer including a first, a second and a third viewing panes, the method comprising the operations of:

(a) generating a plurality of thrasks (threads and tasks), each of the thrasks including at least one information item having a set of metadata (1401-1424; fig.29A);

(b) sorting a new information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion (22, e-mails); and

(c) displaying in the first viewing pane some of the thrasks (viewing pane of fig.22), and displaying in the second viewing pane a list of the information items of a thrask selected from the displayed thrasks (viewing pane of fig.23), for each of the displayed information items at least one of the respective metadata being displayed, and displaying in the third viewing pane some of the content of an information item selected from the list of the displayed information items (fig.24).

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the operation of: (e) updating at least one of the metadata of one of the information items in one of the thrasks (col.75, line 63-col.76, line 63; col.105, line 53-col.106, line 60).

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein, in operation (a), a thrask is generated in response to a user action (22; see “consumer program operation”).
4. The method of claim 1 wherein, in operation (b), a new information item is sorted into one of the thrasks in response to a user action (“New Messages”; fig.24).
5. The method of claim 1 wherein operation (c) is performed in response to a user interaction with one of the first and second viewing panes (see viewing panes of figs.22, 23).
6. A system for managing and tracking information items within an message-based system, the message-based system having a viewer, the viewer including a first, a second and a third viewing panes, the system comprising: (a) a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks (threads and tasks; 1401-1424), each of the thrasks including at least one information item having a set of metadata (col.75, line 63-col.76, line 63; col.105, line 53-col.106, line 60); (b) a sorting module sorting a new information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion (“Referring back to FIG. 13, other functions shown in the object list form 610 (sort, export and print) operate as forms in a manner similar to that for the search form 620. Selection of the choice causes a URL request for the appropriate form, which is displayed. The user can then complete the information in the form and submit the form for processing. After processing, the next appropriate screen will be generated and displayed.”); and (c) a display module displaying in the first viewing pane some of the thrasks, and displaying in the second viewing pane a list of the information items of a thrask selected from the displayed thrasks, for each of the displayed information items at least one of the respective metadata being displayed, and displaying in the third viewing pane some of the content of an information item selected from the list of the displayed information items (viewing pane of figs.22, 23, 24).

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7. The system of claim 6 further comprising: (e) an updating module updating at least one of the metadata of one of the information items in one of the thrasks (col.8, line 45-col. 9, line 49; method steps of figs.31A, B)

8. The system of claim 6 wherein the thrask generating module generates a thrask in response to a user action (110; "communication objects").

9. The system of claim 6 wherein the sorting module sorts a new information item into one of the thrasks in response to a user action (115).

10. The system of claim 6 wherein the display module displays in response to a user interaction with one of the first and second viewing panes (viewing pane of figs.22, 23).

11. A system for managing and tracking information items within an message-based system on a user system, the system having a viewer including a first and a second viewing panes, the system comprising: (a) a mail handling module importing a new mail item into the system, the imported mail item being transformed into one or more information items which are sorted into a corresponding thrask, the information items having metadata (22); (b) a thrask list module controlling a display of and user interaction with a list of thrasks in the first viewing pane; (b) an item list module controlling a display of and user interaction with a list of information items of a thrask selected from the list of thrasks in the second viewing pane; and (c) a notification module receiving notifications of logical events and coordinating respective system responses with the

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mail handling module, the thrask list module, and the item list module (claim 11 is similarly rejected as in claims 1-10).

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the viewer includes a third viewing pane, further comprising: (d) a content preview module controlling a display of the content of an information item selected from the list of information items in the third viewing pane (claim 12 is similarly rejected as in claims 1-10).

13. The system of claim 11 further comprising: (e) a form module managing a set of forms, the forms being windows visible to a user (12).

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the form module manages initialization of the main window of the system (300).

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the form module includes logic to handle a compose form, the compose form facilitating a user to write, save and send a new message (110; fig.3; 201; fig.4).

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the form module manages an item form, the item form allowing a user to see details of an information item in an item window (viewing panes of figs.22, 23, 24).

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17. The system of claim 11 further comprising: (f) a relational database holding data of the system; and (g) a database module accessing the relational database (11).

18. The system of claim 11 wherein the mail handling module sorts the information items into a same thrask that includes a message to which the new mail item is a response (col.8, line 45-col. 9, line 49; method steps of figs.31A, B).

19. The system of claim 11 wherein the mail handling module sorts the information items into a default thrask when the new mail item is not a response to any message in any of the thrasks (610, fig.13).

20. The system of claim 11 wherein the thrask list module displays in proximity of a thrask a composite representation of certain metadata of the information items in the thrask (see “Service Object”; fig.36).

21. The system of claim 11 wherein the composite representation indicates obligations for the thrask (see “Forwarding and Changing Control”).

22. The system of claim 11 wherein the thrask list module displays in proximity of a thrask an indicator representing an approaching deadline (see “Forwarding and Changing Control”; col.82, line 37; 22; “consumer program operation”; “consumer computer”).

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Pwu whose telephone number is 571 272-6798. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



March 2, 2005

**JEFFREY PWU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**